



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Palace Plating Environmental Crimes Task Force Levies Administrative & Criminal Penalties

LOS ANGELES – Citing the need to protect the public by ensuring the safe operation of chrome plating facilities in urban areas through inspections, strict enforcement and working with environmental crime task forces, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the issuance of a Consent Order to Palace Plating of Los Angeles. The Consent order carries a \$60,000 administrative penalty and requires the facility to correct violations revealed during inspections conducted in March of 2005.

Palace Plating is located at 710 East 29th Street, and generates wastewater containing hazardous substances including cyanide, metals, caustics and acids. The facility has corrected all violations cited in the DTSC Consent Order.

The DTSC inspections stemmed from a multi-agency task force initiative started in the fall of 2003. As a result of the efforts of multi-agency task force, the Los Angeles City Attorney led a criminal prosecution based on other violations found during the DTSC investigations. Palace Plating pleaded “no contest” to one count of illegal disposal of hazardous waste and one count of illegal treatment of hazardous waste. In addition to a \$65,000 criminal penalty, Palace Plating was placed on 36 months probation and ordered to comply with all statutes, regulations and orders from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the DTSC.

“The success of this enforcement action highlights the effectiveness of environmental crimes task forces,” said Maureen Gorsen, DTSC Director. “These violations are a serious concern. As a facility located in an urban area – across the street from a school – Palace Plating must comply with laws designed to keep the site secure and provide safeguards for potential releases or accidents,” Gorsen added.

The DTSC Consent Order cites the facility for the following violations:

- Failure to maintain security for an active portion of the site.
- Failure to provide secondary containment for hazardous waste piping.
- Failure to inspect a hazardous waste tank system and document those inspections.
- Failure to prepare a written waste analysis plan for all waste treated on site.

Under the terms of the Consent Order, Palace Plating is required to pay the sum of \$60,000 in six quarterly payments.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.